



Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

306 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Telephone (508) 885-8500 * Fax (508) 885-8504

Email: crowen@sebrsd.org * Web: www.sebrsd.net

Superintendent of Schools: N. Tracy Crowe, Ed.D.

Superintendent Report

August 4, 2015

Kindergarten Enrollment Update

As of today's date, there are 23 students registered for the single Kindergarten class at East Brookfield and 86 for Wire Village which has four classes of K students.

As EB has only one kindergarten classroom and the limit is 24-25, Mr. Tomlin has informed me he cannot accept any additional School Choice or Intra-district transfers at this time. For the past three years, there have been K students who enroll right after school starts. If Mr. Tomlin sees that spaces open up during September/October, he will notify me and we will, in turn, go to the waitlist.

Administrative Summer Work and Professional Development Planning

District administrators met for two days in July and will meet for 3 days in August for the purpose of planning for the 2015-2016 school year. On July 21 and 22, they reviewed numerous topics including educator evaluation, the move, budget, special education and 504's, facility maintenance, staffing, data, Open Houses, and the school calendar. Atty Moschos reviewed state regulations & District policies and the DSAC staff gave an overview of their assistance and discussed next steps for training needs.

I will be requesting a meeting with SEBTA President Mark James to re-establish and convene the PD Committee for the 2015-2016 school year. The purpose of this is to encourage teacher-driven professional development that is high quality and responsive to the needs of staff in the District.

MASS/MASC Annual Joint Conference *attachment*

Massachusetts Associations of School Committees and School Superintendents host the state's largest annual gathering of education leaders, featuring a program of nationally known speakers, a wide variety of panel sessions offering professional development opportunities, in-depth discussion of the critical education issues of today, educational vendors and exhibitors, demonstrations on instruction & management best practices and a chance to network with other school leaders. Last year's conference included over 50 workshops and panel sessions on cost-savings issues, PARCC, learning standards, labor relations, educator evaluations, leadership development and legal/legislative updates, plus innovative ideas described by MASC Partners. (*brochure*)

Personnel Report

Retirements

Congratulations to the following June/July retirees:

- Lisa Landry

- Allan Miner
- Pauline Condee
- Robert Deso
- Karen Rubino
- Kathleen Whitcomb
- Deborah Champoux
- Nancy Jensrud
- Pauline Keys
- Janet Stevens
- Glenn Fryckberg

Resignations

There were 10 resignations received.

Non-renewal

There were two non-renewals.

Open Houses/Start Dates/Calendar (*attachments*)

Wire Village

All Grades Open House - August 25, 2015 – 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Open House – September 1, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

East Brookfield Elementary

Kindergarten Open House – September 1, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Knox Trail

August 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym

David Prouty High School

AA Transportation – Kindergarten Open House

August 19, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Varney’s Garage, 174 West Main Street, East Brookfield

New Teacher Orientation and Convocation

New teachers will attend 2 days of NTO –*new teacher orientation*- on August 25th and 26th. They will meet District administrators and take school tours. They will receive an overview of programs and grants, technology training, and time with building principals. Business staff will be present to answer questions they may have about benefits or payroll, and I will also invite the union leadership to explain SEBTA membership information.

On Monday August 31 at 8:30 a.m. the entire school community will participate in the 2015 SEBRSD Convocation*

All school personnel -- administrators, teachers, paraprofessional aides, secretaries, food service workers, and custodians—will come together to launch the new school year. Invitees to Convocation will be School Committee members and town officials. It is my hope that this coming together will be the right start to a new school year that will help us to build a common vision for our work.

A **convocation** (from the Latin *convocare* meaning "to call/come together" is a group of people formally assembled for a special purpose.)

Charter Proposal-OSV attachment

This will clearly impact our enrollment given that the first year proposes K-2 and adds a grade each year up to K-8.

Global Studies

Given the recent innovations in other MA districts to establish Global Studies Programs, the need for SEBRSD to distinguish itself in a positive way, and the benefits that such a program provides to our students, I am strongly recommending that the District pursue the establishment of a Global Studies program. During the course of this school year, my recommendation is that a committee be formed to research and examine what other districts have adopted and the results achieved. Research shows that global competence is an important component for a student's education. Colleges see a global competency certificate as a positive factor on an application, and there is grant money available for such programs and student scholarships for participants. Needham has a long-standing program but other schools who now have global studies or global leadership programs are: Leicester, Hingham, Tahanto Regional, Framingham, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional and Cohasset.

Some benefits of a Global Studies Program include:

- Communicate how we are interconnected and how systems operate across other nations and regions
- Ability to articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively
- Collaborate to investigate possible solutions to global problems
- Develop new knowledge about a world culture or internationally relevant issue
- Build relationships and interact with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Analyze and interpret contemporary world issues or events

School Inspections by the Department of Public Health

Michael Feeney, Director of the Indoor Air Quality Program was contacted regarding the inspection of all the schools in the District. He will put together some potential dates for the inspections and will let us know.